

Amendments have been made to the claims to remove the multiple dependencies in order to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

February 23, 2001

(Date of Deposit)

Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. or Attorney

Rachel Piscitelli

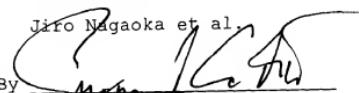
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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jiro Nagaoka et al.
Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone - (203) 777-6628